

To All Members of Parliament

International Friendship, not Foreign Interference, with Venezuela

We are disturbed by the direction of Canada's foreign policy.

For nearly a decade, the government has adopted an increasingly aggressive position in international relations. This includes interfering in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries, supporting foreign coups and participating in wars of aggression.

Canada has historically maintained a healthy relationship with other countries in the Americas. However, as a result of its current foreign policy toward Venezuela, Canada is becoming isolated among countries in the hemisphere.

We are particularly distressed by recent actions of the Canadian government:

- Following the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's official message expressed his hope that "At this key juncture... the people of Venezuela can now build for themselves a better, brighter future based on the principles of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights." This politically motivated and insensitive remark resulted in an official protest from the Venezuelan government.
- On February 12, 2015 the Venezuelan government uncovered a coup plot that involved a small group of very wealthy, right-wing Venezuelan families who were receiving support from foreign governments. The coup plans included maps with bombing targets. The Venezuelan government stated that the coup plot included assistance from RCMP officer Nancy Birbeck and someone from the Canadian Embassy. To date, neither the Prime Minister nor the Minister of Foreign Affairs has responded to these reports.
- One of the key moments of the VII Summit of the Americas, held in April 2015, was the meeting between US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raoul Castro. Sadly, this historic moment of international friendship was overshadowed by the decision of the United States and Canada to block the Summit's final document. The US and Canada objected to points including health as a human right, ending electronic espionage, and repealing Obama's Executive Order that described Venezuela as a security threat to the US. All of the 33 other countries at the Summit approved the final declaration.

We call on all Members of Parliament to reject the current foreign policy of interference, intervention and aggression toward Venezuela.

Canada needs a new, independent foreign policy based on peace, international cooperation and solidarity.

Signed,

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE